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annual Report

of the

Board of Health,

1883

Newark N.J.

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF HEALTH,
FOR THE
YEAR 1883.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF HEALTH.

*To Hon. Henry Lang, Mayor, and the Members of
the Common Council, of Newark, N. J. :*

GENTLEMEN :—In compliance with the requirements of the ordinance establishing the Board of Health, I have the honor to submit the following report :

Although much has been said as to the supposed inefficiency and want of power or law to enforce the requirements of this Board, we are able to make a better showing of results than ever before. We are happy to say that our requests have been complied with by our citizens, without recourse to suit in but few instances.

I am assured by observation that the sanitary outlook of the city was never better, and that all our people ask for is proper sanitary instruction to make the condition still more favorable. Our city during the past year has been entirely free from any epidemic of disease, although much uneasiness was excited by the prevalence of scarlatina and diphtheria in the Spring,

which, owing to the prompt action and stringent measures of the Board for its abatement, did not assume the proportions we had reason to expect.

MARRIAGES.

The total number of marriages reported at the office of the City Clerk during the year was 1,348.

BIRTHS.

There were 4,054 births reported during the year.

MORTALITY.

The whole number of deaths during the year was 3,790—131 less than in 1882—or twenty-five per thousand. As the number of deaths reported include 191 of still-born children, together with a number of deaths of non-residents in our hospitals, asylums, etc., the actual death-rate is considerably reduced, or about twenty-two per thousand.

Of the total number of deaths, 1,564 were under five years of age; of this number 871 (excluding still-births) being under one year, many of whom if properly cared for as to food, sanitation, etc., might have been saved. The diseases most fatal were phthisis pulmonalis 502, pneumonia 263, scarlatina 236, diphtheria 141, cholera infantum 135.

SANITARY INSPECTION.

The work done by our Inspectors was much the same as that of last year, and without invidious comparison

has been much more effective and extended. I ordered for the first time in our city a careful and systematic house to house inspection, the purpose of which was to make an inquiry as to the general sanitary conditions of their surroundings, their ventilation, plumbing, sewer and cesspool connections, drinking water, or for any cause of ill health and disease. Four members of the sanitary corps were detailed for this duty, and have visited about two-thirds of the more densely populated portion of the city, inspecting 10,615 dwellings, 2,272 of which needed the intervention of your Health Department to remedy the vast amount of defective drains, vaults, cesspools, and such other matters found by the Inspectors that was dangerous to life and health. All this work has been done in addition to that regularly devolving upon our sanitary police, and it affords me pleasure to compliment the entire force for their zeal and activity.

A full statement of this department of the Board may be found in the Inspector's report.

MILK INSPECTION.

This inspection has been prosecuted with due diligence, and I am gratified to state that the character of the milk supply of the city has been uniformly pure. There have been some sixty cases of violation of the law prosecuted, and, although the trials of these cases were beset with difficulties, judgement was obtained for the city in many of them. Now that the

Supreme Court has decided on the constitutionality of the law, your Board will find but little trouble in convicting violators hereafter. •

I would recommend that your Honorable Body have such amendments added to this law in order that it may not be so great a hardship on the smaller dealers.

MEAT AND CATTLE INSPECTION

Has been followed with great carefulness, the inspectors recognizing the great responsibility imposed upon them. They have condemned and destroyed large amounts of meat, poultry, fish and vegetables, and have looked after the slaughtering places and shops with all the attention possible.

The breaking out of a contagious disease (to both man and beast) in one of our large stables has confirmed the necessity of a veterinarian on the sanitary staff, and it was largely due to his professional skill and earnest effort that the disease was so speedily stamped out. I would recommend the passage of such laws as will protect the community against contagious diseases arising in the brute, and liable to be communicated to man, developing in the human being diseases most loathsome and dangerous. It seems singular that our State should have been so careful to pass laws and spend so much money to protect the animal, but has been blind as to giving corresponding protection to man.

NUISANCES.

Your Executive is frequently called upon to define and abate what individuals call a nuisance. Some feel

that the Board have no right to interfere, nor power to abate, unless said nuisance may be positively detrimental to public health. In our city where the health, comfort and interest of such great numbers may be affected, the question becomes one that is very important, and as an impression seems to prevail with some that it is necessary to prove that health and life are actually endangered in order to secure the removal or abatement of a given nuisance. I will quote from the rulings of the Chancery Courts in the neighboring States. The duties of health authorities are defined as follows: "Any trade, business or calling, however lawful, which from the plan or the manner in which it is carried on, materially injures the property of others, or affects the health, or renders the enjoyment of life physically uncomfortable is a *nuisance*, which it is the duty of the Health Board and Court to restrain." Again, "The *welfare* and *safety* of the the community are matters of paramount importance, to which all the pursuits, occupations and employments of individuals, inconsistent with their preservation must yield." Thus it will be seen that it is our duty to recommend the abatement of all such nuisances as render the enjoyment of life uncomfortable.

It is in this direction that our present Board is particularly weak, and needs greater power in order that such cases may be taken at once before the Chancellor for his decision.

CESSPOOLS AND PRIVY VAULTS.

To remedy the present system of cesspools and privy vaults is at once one of the most important and most

difficult problems connected with the sanitation of this city. I am persuaded that the magnitude of this offending is so great that when compared with it all others are of minor significance.

They are a leading factor in lowering the vital standard and energy of a great portion of our population by the putrid contaminations of the air we breathe, the water we drink, and often of the food we eat. They lessen and break down the power of resistance in diseased action. They originate directly and indirectly a large class of maladies known to sanitary science as filth diseases. They are an important factor in the increased percentage of deaths among children swept from our homes by diarrheal diseases, diphtheria, scarlatina, etc. They also help to maintain a high annual death rate by the operation of causes *strictly preventable*. In order to impress this evil more forcibly permit me to give you some approximate idea of this great nuisance, surveyed from a sanitary standpoint. Newark has some 7,500 acres suitable for building purposes; its length is about six miles, and width about three, a large part of which is suburban. Living within this space is a population of about 150,000 people, occupying about 22,800 habitations, seven to each tenement. Although we have some 50 miles of sewers, we have 178 miles of streets, consequently not one-third of our houses have such connections, but are forced to be accommodated with privy and cesspool built in such manner as that their contents have free access to the soil.

Fixing the amount of excrementitious matter, solid and fluid, at two pounds daily, (and it is much greater

during sickness, we find that into the soil of this city is poured 200,000 pounds of this excreta daily, 6,000,000 per month, or 72,000,000 pounds annually. Imagine this quantity of human filth undergoing slowly the lowest form of putrefactive ferment, escaping partly by evaporation into our houses and the atmosphere, but chiefly by soakage into the earth, poisoning the well water, etc., and spreading disease and death broadcast. When we consider this we are enabled to correctly value our privy and cesspool system and its disadvantages.

This not being burden enough for our citizens to bear, we have permitted its removal for the most part in the most primitive manner, to the extent of 200,000 cubic feet this year, mostly by the dipper and bucket system, so polluting the atmosphere for blocks, despite the reliance on so called disinfectants, which, as a means of protection, is but a delusion and a snare. Much of this so called disinfection is nothing better than hiding a fault, a substitution of one vile smell for another. The history of such methods may be written in a single word, "*Disappointment.*"

Of course the only remedy is a complete and reliable system of sewerage, a general plan that would take in the whole city, giving us a system that would not be liable to change. I wish to emphasize this point from the fact that this city is now making great mistakes in laying so much earthen pipe for sewerage, as repeated experiments in our own and other cities show that the vitreous surface is dissolved, leaving the pipe porous and leaky, thus destroying its use as a safe conductor; at best their life is short and the outlay lost. I am

also of the opinion that not enough engineering skill has been brought to bear on what should be a perfect system of sewerage. The size of sewer and the direction of fall should be laid out on a map, and no permit granted unless in conformity to such carefully devised plan. I would also recommend the entire abolition of additional pipe sewers as now constructed, and that legislation be secured permitting the issuing of bonds, in order that properly constructed brick sewers in conformity to a general plan may be built where necessary. Until this can be brought about, I would recommend to your honorable body the enactment of an ordinance requiring all new privies and cesspools, and those to be renewed, to be constructed of good brick work, laid in cement, properly rendered inside with cement, and with a backing of at least nine inches of well puddled clay around and beneath said brick work, to be properly covered over and ventilated. This should be cleaned when needed by the odorless process, that is the contents of the vaults drawn through an air tight pipe, consequently no odor can escape, and thus we do away with the old dipper and bucket system. Without this, all else that may be done is but leaving the work undone.

WELL WATER.

I have spoken of the danger due to the use of well water. All city wells are liable to contamination of sewer, cesspool, privy, vault and surface drainage. I regard all our well water as objectionable on this account, and hope all citizens will abandon their use

I have had 34 samples of water taken from different sections of the city chemically analyzed. In each was found the evidence of the above contamination to a greater or less extent, and particularly was this so in our public wells, from which so many drink in summer.

I would recommend that the Board declare each of these street pumps or wells a nuisance, and order their abandonment.

CONTAGIOUS DISEASES.

The ordinance requiring physicians to report all cases of contagious diseases has worked well. While no small-pox has prevailed, there have been 1588 cases of scarlatina, 236 deaths; of diphtheria, 355 cases, 141 deaths reported. The Board has used its best endeavors to instruct families as to the general care of such cases, as to the benefits of careful and complete isolation, and have received the entire co operation of the school authorities, and for the most part that of the physicians, thus I think we succeeded in preventing an epidemic. I would urge that during the coming year the penalties of that ordinance be enforced.

DOMESTIC HYGIENE.

The minds of our people should be thoroughly aroused to the importance of this subject, as it relates to all circumstances which have an influence on health, and is directly under individual control.

The head of each family should be his own *sanitary inspector*. He should frequently examine his premises, and familiarize himself with the means of protection

against disease, most of which can be adopted with but little cost, and with the assurance of success, his obligation does not end at home. He should see that his immediate surroundings do not become foci of disease. It has been truly said that epidemic diseases are "*God's protest against filth.*"

The Board asks for the hearty co-operation of our citizens. It was said by one of England's statesmen that "No sanitary improvement worth the name will be effected, whatever acts you pass or whatever powers you confer upon public officers, unless a real and intelligent interest in the matter is created among the people at large."

Respectfully submitted,

F. B. MANDEVILLE,

Health Physician.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
HEALTH INSPECTOR,
FOR THE
YEAR 1883.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH INSPECTOR.

NEWARK, N. J., January, 1884.

To F. B. Mandeville, Health Physician :

The following is a statement of the work done by this department during 1883, except that reported by Meat Inspectors Gerth and Miller. The working department consists of two Meat Inspectors, five Sanitary, and one Milk Inspector, the last doing Sanitary work when not on Milk duty.

There have been 740 citizens' complaints investigated, 250 of the same found to be no cause for complaint. 3,265 notices served to abate, 3,700 vaults and cess-pools emptied, which is equal to 370,000 cubic feet of filth removed, 4,000 examinations made, permits granted to keep 775 cows, which does not include all that are kept within the city. Many are kept in unlawful quarters, with small, filthy, unventilated stables, likely to become diseased. Milk produced from many of these is sold, those buying it feeling assured that it is pure and healthy, not being aware of the danger of causing disease among their children or families ; 610

premises connected to sewers during the year. It will be remembered the connections as well as the trapping of same were inspected by the Inspectors so far as completed. ‘

27 cases given to City Attorney for prosecution for violation of ordinances.

18 cases abated by Attorney writing them.

3 cases prosecuted. Judgments rendered, \$110.00.

Balance of cases in hands of Attorney.

Contagious diseases reported by physicians: Scarlet Fever, 1,588; Diphtheria, 355; Small Pox, none.

In addition to the foregoing, the house to house inspection, commenced in August, results as follows:

10,615 houses examined.

19,225 families in same.

4,904 houses connected with sewers.

5,711 use cesspools, and empty refuse in any convenient place.

634 defective drainage.

496 blind cesspools ordered ventilated.

10,658 privy vaults examined.

1,142 privy vaults ordered emptied.

7,376 families use well water.

11,847 families use aqueduct water.

This inspection covers about two-thirds of the city.

W G. WAGONER,

Health Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEAT INSPECTOR,
FOR THE
YEAR 1883.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEAT INSPECTORS.

NEWARK, N. J., January 3d, 1884.

To F. B. Mandeville, Esq., M. D., Health Officer :

DEAR SIR :—The undersigned most respectfully submit this our annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1883 :

To date we have examined 144,346 live and dressed animals, viz: 28,591 cattle, 35,557 calves, 35,592 sheep and lambs, 44,606 hogs, also large quantities of poultry and game.

During the past year we have condemned 2 beef-cattle, 43 calves, 26 sheep, 3 hogs, 500 pounds of beef, 242 pounds of veal, 498 pounds of pork, 10,580 pounds of poultry, 102 pounds of ham, 133 pounds of sausage, and 59 pounds of mutton.

With the exception of small quantities destroyed by ourselves it was all turned over to Mr. Ahrens.

It is estimated that about one-fifth of the meats offered for sale escape inspection. This is due to the existence of so many private slaughter-houses, where

animals are killed at all hours ; to the irregularity in the arrival of cattle trains, and to the importation of beef from New York. We have no laws prohibiting the removal of stock before examination.

PRIVATE SLAUGHTER HOUSES.

Our private slaughter-houses are scattered over all sections of the city, and are very numerous. It is a well-known fact that they are in themselves a nuisance, and oftentimes, during the Summer months, become hot-beds of disease. We have fifteen of these establishments in our city. Thirteen have no sewer connections, two are improperly connected with sewers. One with no sewer connection is located in a populated district of the city. With but two exceptions there is little or no attempt made by the owners to properly remove the offal and cleanse the places thoroughly. A more frequent application of soap and water would not be detrimental to the buildings.

Private slaughter-houses are objectionable in other respects. Every owner has a right to kill at all hours of the day and night, whereby ample opportunity is afforded to unscrupulous butchers—who fortunately are in the minority—to impose upon the unknowing public. It has been ascertained that sick cows and other animals were killed at night and hurried off to bologna factories, where they were immediately cut up into small pieces, so as to prevent detection.

By proper legislation, and the erection of a public abattoir municipal or corporative—subject to control of this Board, all these evils could and ought to be abolished.

PUBLIC ABATTOIR, COMBINED WITH A GENERAL
CATTLE YARD.

A public abattoir, if judiciously governed, would not inconvenience the producer, the dealer nor the butcher, and would prove to be a benefit to the public.

The great annoyance of cattle being driven through the streets would cease, the animals being transported direct to the place in railroad cars.

Cruelty to animals, which is so frequently practiced in private slaughter-houses, could no longer be continued, by reason of its publicity.

Owing also to a strict and constant supervision, and on account of being well equipped with all modern improvements for thoroughly washing the abattoir, nothing but the utmost cleanliness could exist.

With the closing of private slaughter-houses, the nuisances which now contaminate the air would be abolished.

In order to have inspection strictly and thoroughly performed, a cattle-yard should always be connected with an abattoir, so that all animals can be examined before slaughtering.

With the present condition of affairs, and the existence of contagious animal diseases, some of which are transmittable to man, and render the meat unwholesome, it would therefore seem expedient for your honorable body to give this important subject some consideration at an early opportunity.

BUTCHER SHOPS.

We have no less than 340 butcher shops in Newark. In the so-called first-class shops—which fortunately

are in the majority nothing but prime stock is handled. The owners of the other, or second-class shops, principally deal in cheap and inferior meats, which often are unwholesome. It is in these places that the unfortunate poor are frequently imposed upon. These second-class shops are sometimes visited daily, and now and then at irregular intervals. Considerable flesh was condemned at these places.

BOLOGNA FACTORIES.

The manufacture of bologna sausages is developing into quite an extensive business. Bull and cow beef is principally utilized for that purpose. Some manufacturers use only the cheapest and most inferior quality of meats. A rigid supervision of these establishments is always warranted. In order that all manufacturers are not condemned by the public, it is but justice to state that a few of our butchers take a pride in having the reputation of making the best bologna sausages, and therefore utilize nothing but the best and most wholesome material.

PORK PACKING.

We have five firms in Newark engaged in the business. These firms combined cut up over one hundred thousand hogs annually. A large quantity of this pork is used for home consumption, the other is exported. The utmost cleanliness is observed in these places.

CONTAGIOUS ANIMAL DISEASES.

The disposition shown by this Board to interest themselves in contagious diseases of animals, especially those which are transmitted to man, we sincerely hope will be continued.

In exposing and eradicating the outbreak of glanders among horses in the stables of the Newark and South Orange Horse Car Company, this Board has performed a duty which was duly appreciated by the community, notwithstanding that strategy was resorted to. After the last horse, presenting positive symptoms of the disease, was destroyed, the stables were left in entire charge of the State Board of Health.

State laws, giving local Boards of Health more power to act in relation to contagious diseases among animals are a necessity.

We have an abundance of laws to check the spread of contagious pleuro-pneumonia among cattle, but none in relation to animal diseases which are communicable to human beings. Legislation on glanders, tuberculosis, trichinosis, hydrophobia, hog cholera, etc., will not be out of place.

Respectfully submitted,

PHILIP MILLER,

J. GERTH, JR., D. V. S.

Meat Inspectors.

REPORT

OF THE

CITY APOTHECARY,

FOR THE

YEAR 1883.

REPORT OF THE CITY APOTHECARY.

To F. B. Mandeville, Esq., Health Physician :

DEAR SIR :—I respectfully submit this my annual report for the year ending Dec. 31, 1883 :

MONTHS.	New Patients.	Clinic Prescriptions.	1st District.	2d District.	3d District.	4th District.	5th District.	6th District.	7th District.	8th District.	Total Districts.	Grand Total.	Vaccinated.	Drugs.
January.....	380	475	89	82	32	77	103	88	48	38	557	1,032	2	\$155 46
February.....	365	457	88	84	50	65	93	95	53	49	577	1,034	18
March.....	420	502	76	102	58	89	75	188	82	68	738	1,240	25	116 69
April.....	455	458	78	79	30	73	112	108	128	58	666	1,124	84	116 60
May.....	530	525	80	90	18	56	89	88	96	58	575	1,100	150	23 86
June.....	465	475	57	59	22	27	76	74	41	49	405	880	78	120 84
July.....	460	493	60	62	25	50	70	81	40	59	447	940	14	72 01
August..	480	491	64	38	12	43	45	65	31	58	356	847	51 78
September....	490	487	45	28	10	38	42	112	32	28	335	822	108	106 90
October.. ...	470	480	35	39	29	46	30	79	25	20	303	783	77	23 30
November....	380	390	28	48	15	70	43	70	38	40	352	742	31	40 34
December....	320	389	43	78	32	110	60	147	39	46	555	944	7	46 13
Total.....	5,215	5,622	743	789	333	744	838	1,195	653	571	5,866	11,488	594	\$873 91

Respectfully submitted,

J. FRANK CRAMER, *City Apothecary.*





